



OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week of September 13, 2015 to September 19, 2015

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

Officer-in-Charge: Captain Arbin; **Available Lieutenants:** 1st Lt. Lee, Lt. Stone

GENERAL MEETING: City Hall Council Chambers - 3rd St. - 1st Floor- 0830hrs

Parking is available in the City Hall lot; enter Council Chambers through rear of the building.

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditional) / 20th St. / 88th St.

Tides: High: 0808hrs

Low: 1420hrs

Special Events: ESA Surf Competition- 48th St.– Dawn to Dusk

Important Notice

Please note the dates, times, and location of the remaining weekly meetings and adjust your calendar accordingly.

Sunday, September 20
City Hall- 0830hrs

Sunday, September 27
City Hall- 0830hrs

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Officer in Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs; **Also Available:** 1st Lt. Lee

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 18th St. / 86th St.

Tides: High: 0846hrs

Low: 1458hrs

Special Events: 80s Endless Summer Boot Camp Bash- 2nd St.-1500hrs

Guidelines for Modified Surfing

Note: The surfing ordinance is in effect until Sept. 30 each year.

- Surfers must still wear a leash.
- Swimmers **always** have the right of way.
- Surfers must remain no less than 50 yds. from the nearest swimmer or non-surfer.
- Surfers should be moved to the area between the stands.
- If there are too many swimmers, then the surfers must relocate or stop surfing altogether.
- The use of skimboards and other watercraft (kite surfers, windsurfers, kayaks, etc. is still prohibited
- If a surfer injures another person, he/she is responsible, and we must ID the surfer, involving the police if necessary.
- Stand-up paddleboard allowed starting Monday following Labor Day if surfing is modified

S.R.T. Name:	Monday 9/14/2015	Tuesday 9/15/2015	Wednesday 9/16/2015	Thursday 9/17/2015	Friday 9/18/2015	Saturday 9/19/2015	Sunday 9/20/2015	CREW
Daily Assignment								
Rescues								Totals
Preventative actions								
First Aids								
Ordinance Enforcements								

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Officer-in-Charge: *Lieutenant Ward Kovacs*

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 16th St. / 84th St.

Tides: High: 0925hrs
Low: 1537hrs

Special Events: None

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Officer-in-Charge: *Lieutenant Ward Kovacs*

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 14th St. / 82nd St.

Tides: High: 1004hrs
Low: 1617hrs

Special Events: Beach Wedding- 91st St.- 1700hrs
Beach Wedding- 91st St.- 1900hrs

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Officer-in-Charge: *Lieutenant Ward Kovacs*

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 12th St. / 80th St.

Tides: High: 1044hrs
Low: 1700hrs

Special Events: OC Bikefest

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Officer-in-Charge: *Lieutenant Ward Kovacs*

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 10th St. / 78th St.

Tides: High: 1125hrs
Low: 1746hrs

Special Events: OC Bikefest

Mobile Rescue Units

- Mobile means MOVING! Do not become stationary unless your assignment requires it.
- Two or more quads should never congregate. This reduces the overall coverage of the beach.
- Your primary responsibility requires that you remain available at all times.
- Inform **Beach Patrol** of "ALL" your actions. They need to know what resources are available and where they are.
- NEVER leave the quad unattended with an SRT not authorized to operate it. Quads need to be readily available in an emergency.
- Perform rescues if and when necessary.
- Back up SRTs making rescues in your area of responsibility or as directed by **Beach Patrol**.
- Respond to medical emergencies in your area of responsibility or as directed by **Communications**.
- Supervise all OCBP personnel enforcing all policies and procedures.
- Assist with moving rovers when appropriate and circumstances permit.
- Patrol in your area of responsibility assisting the SRTs especially between stands and including ordinance enforcement.

Town of Ocean City Ordinance SURF FISHING AND CASTING Sec. 106-131. Public beach restrictions.

Surf fishing is permitted in Ocean City. However, be sure you are not within 50 yards of swimmers or of anyone on the beach between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
(Code 1972, § 28-9)

Winter Mailings

Newsletters and all Return to Work information and notifications for the 2015 season will be sent to the winter address that you provided, as well as to the email address you provided this year. Updates and/or adjustments should be made through the office--either in person or by e-mail.

2016 W-2 Forms

The Town of Ocean City will send your W-2 form to the permanent address on record for you. This is the address that is printed on your paycheck. W-2's will be sent out by January 31, 2016. If you need to make any changes and/or adjustments, you must fill out a change of address form and submit it to the City Hall Human Resources department by January 1, 2016.

1. Contact Dolores in the City Hall Human Resources
410-289-8822

~and~

2. Contact Secretary Tyler via email:
dtyler@oceancitymd.gov
with any changes.

This is very important that you notify both people!



Keep your feet in the sand,
until the lifeguard's in the stand!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Officer in Charge: Captain Butch Arbin; **Also Available:** Lt. Stone

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditional) / 8th St. / 76th St.

Tides: High: 1210hrs
Low: 1836hrs

Special Events: OC Bikefest
Beach Weddings- 41st St.- 1100hrs & 48th St.- 1830hrs



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015-End of Pay Period

Officer in Charge: Captain Butch Arbin; **Also Available:** Lt. Stone

GENERAL MEETING:: City Hall Council Chambers - 3rd St. - 1st Floor- 0830hrs

Parking is available in the City Hall lot; enter Council Chambers through rear of the building.

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2016

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day- Area Supervisor determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditional) / 6th St. / 74th St.

Tides: High: 1301hrs
Low: 0639hrs

Special Events: OC Bikefest

UPCOMING 2015 BEACH PATROL EVENTS



Sept. 27	Last Day of 2015 Season
Sept. 28- Oct. 12	Extended Patrol
Nov. 23	Semi-Annual OCBP Report- Fall Edition
Nov. 28	OCBP Alumni Dinner- Captain's Table
Feb. 28	Salisbury University Off-site PEPSE
March 5-6	OCBP 2016 Strategic Planning Meeting
March 12	York College Off-site PEPSE
May 28	OCBP Begins the 2016 Season
May 30	Memorial Day 2016

Upcoming Town of Ocean City Special Event

80s Endless Summer Beach Boot Camp Bash	Sept. 14	2 nd St.	1500hrs to 2000hrs
OC Bikefest	Sept. 17-20		
Sunfest	Sept. 26-27	Daily	Inlet
Springfest	May 5-8	1000 to 2000hrs	Inlet

Reminder: Stats are Important!

Throughout the year, we are often asked for our stats by various agencies. If you are leaving town after work, don't forget to turn in your stats before you leave.

Crew Chiefs: Don't forget to record the stats in Google Docs before you leave.

The stats still run from Monday thru Sunday, so this week ends on 9/20/15.



<u>Stats.</u>	<u>Week 16</u> 8/31/15 to 9/6/15	<u>Week 16</u> Year-To- Date 2015	<u>Week 16</u> 9/1/14 to 9/7/14	<u>Week 16</u> Year-To- Date 2014	<u>Week 16</u> 9/2/13 to 9/8/13	<u>Week 16</u> Year-To- Date 2013
Action						
Preventions	255	62894	2	45068	3	32066
Rescues	1	2614	0	2639	89	2017
Minor First Aid	1	1208	2	1070	NA	1229
Ambulance Calls	10	208	5	303	3	137
Police Calls	1	140	2	126	3	137
USCG/MDNRP	0	7	0	18	2	11
Lost/Found Persons	31	446	0	459	2	474
N. Surf Beach Population	0	453	NA	NA	NA	633
S. Surf Beach Population	217	2974	NA	NA	NA	3220
Inlet Surf Beach Population	0	647	NA	NA	NA	673
Beach Wheelchair Usage	28	466	2	487	3	473

Employee Evaluations – Not the Entire Picture

Although having satisfactory evaluations is very important, they are only one aspect of each employee's summative performance rating. Employee commendations, incidents, responsibility for equipment, amount of time worked, amount of time taken off, fulfilling work agreement, and last day worked are all considered by the review panel. Only once a full and complete assessment is made will a final recommendation be made to the Captain, regarding an employee's status for the next season.

Request for Recommendations

Between seasons, I am often asked to complete references and recommendations. If you need me to provide something like this for you, I ask that you make the request in writing. In that request you should give me any information that will help me in giving you the best possible recommendation. I will need to know to whom it goes and if there is a particular format or form that is required. It will also be helpful to remind me of some of the Beach Patrol activities that you have been involved in, such as JBP, Camps, special duties, etc. I also will need a fair amount of lead-time since personnel files are secured in Ocean City while I am in La Plata. You may send your request by e-mail or if you are required to mail to a physical address, you may use:

Captain Butch Arbin
134 West Quail Lane
La Plata, Maryland 20646

Attaguard

From: Kathy G.]
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2015 2:11 PM
To: Butch Arbin; sdobson@oceancitytoday.net
Subject: Never Enough Thank You's

Anyone sitting on the beach on Saturday, August 22 witnessed the dangers of the ocean with the winds and high waves pounding the shore relentlessly. It was a gorgeous day and one that certainly kept the Ocean City Beach Patrol "on their game".

As a Professional Lifeguard Trainer for 47 years now, I have spent hours during the summers watching the OCBP keeping the visitors to our beaches safe and educated. On Saturday, I felt compelled to thank the OCBP guard assigned to 3rd Street, Sam, for a job "well done". He was on top of "his" beach. Sam was constantly blowing his whistle and waving people back to a safe area in the waters. He didn't hesitate to continue to blow his whistle and stay on top of those swimmers that were not listening to the warnings. He definitely took his job seriously!

I was sitting right near him when he called everyone in the water and on the surrounding beach area over to his stand to go over Safety Cautions. He delivered his message in a most professional manner and with passion for his responsibilities.

It was amazing with all the Town of Ocean City and the Ocean City Beach Patrol safety publicity around town that the swimmers chose to ignore the lifeguards warnings. I witnessed many people ignoring the warnings however Sam kept on them in a most professional and persistent manner to keep them safe. Did I once witness a "thank you" to him...sadly, no. In fact, quite the contrary, at times.

When it was time for the beach to be closed, the lifeguards were "off duty" Sam was diligent about getting everyone out of the water. He had to explain to some that the beach was closing due to the lifeguards going "off duty". One group continued to give Sam a hard time about going back into the ocean and he continued to whistle them out. Sam had pulled his lifeguard stand back on the beach and was gathering his belongings when the ocean was full of people again. Those sitting around me, visitors to our town, were most surprised that these individuals did not heed the lifeguards warnings that the beach was closed. We all sat and spoke about the dangerous water conditions yet people went in without the lifeguard on duty.

I would like the Ocean City Beach Patrol and the Town of Ocean City know that Sam, an OCBP employee, was an absolute stand-out. Safety is obviously his # 1 concern. As the summer was winding down, Sam was still diligent. Thank you, Sam, for all your professional work this summer to keep the beaches around 3rd Street safe. We applaud your outstanding dedication. You are a young man that we all feel fortunate to have on our beach! You were a "standout" that was noticed!

Thank you.
Kathy G.
Resident



OCBP Question-of-the-Week for The Worcester County Times

This Week's Question: When I was at the beach last Saturday, September 5th, the lifeguards were not allowing anyone in the ocean past their knees and several times they had everyone come out of the ocean and gather around their tower and talked to them. I have visited many beaches but never saw the lifeguard talk to the people is this something new? Also, they did let the surfers out that day but the next day they didn't. I am just curious what made this day so different?

This is the time of year that Ocean City experiences an increase in the volume and size of waves due to tropical activity in the Atlantic. August and September are traditionally our large surf months, producing larger waves, dangerous rip currents and hazardous shorebreak. Larger waves bring more water into shore, which has to escape out through the rips, meaning that rip currents become larger, longer, faster moving and deadlier. As these systems move closer to our coast, the impact becomes greater and the potential for dangerous conditions becomes more likely. The week that you were here there had been a hurricane toward the east coast. Although it was a minimal hurricane (CAT 1) the waves that it was pushing in front of it had a major impact on our surf conditions. We had 4-6 foot wave height with an occasional 8-foot swell coming on shore. Additionally, as the tide receded going to low this is the perfect recipe for the most dangerous rip current activity (Flash Rips). A person standing in knee deep water can maintain firm footing as the waves raise the water level and will not be pulled away from shore. However, even standing in waist deep water allows the incoming waves to raise the level of the water enough that you become more buoyant (floating) and can be pulled into deeper water where you may be pulled further out by these fast moving rip currents. When this happens to a poor swimmer, the person may immediately find themselves in a life and death struggle to keep their head above water. If this happens while the Beach Patrol is on duty the Surf Rescue Technician will respond and take appropriate action. However, the same conditions exist, both before and after we are on duty so the results may turn out deadly as it did twice last week, 1 hour and 30 minutes after the Beach Patrol had cleared the ocean and gone off duty for the day and again around Midnight. There was almost a third tragedy had a Beach Patrol Lieutenant who was driving down the beach checking for stand vandalism at 8:00 AM (2 hours before we go on duty) not been at the exact location to notice a 13 – 14 year old struggling in a rip current. Lieutenant Skip Lee immediately initiated a rescue and pulled the boy to safety from beneath the water (seconds from drowning).

Another factor that contributed to our decision to place swimming restriction in affect, is the reduction in the number of Surf Rescue Technicians (SRT) that are on duty each day in late August and September. We are still guarding all 10 miles of beach, but the distance between stands has increased. As a result it could take your SRT longer to get to you so keeping people in close under these conditions helps us keep everyone safe. That is why we ask people to walk to the nearest lifeguard stand and swim near the SRT during this time each season.

The second activity you noticed was what we call an EDU (semaphore abbreviation for education). The Ocean City Beach Patrol has a three part mission which includes education, prevention and intervention. We value the first part, because we know that informing people about ocean conditions and other facts about the beach, helps us maintain safety. What you saw was a mass EDU to let people know what they were seeing that day on that beach and what precautions they needed to take to keep themselves and their families safe. Part of the training that each SRT goes through during Surf Rescue Training Academy is how to educate the public and they get lots of practice each season. This practice has been occurring for over 15 years and we often receive letters from people who relate that this aspect of the SRT's job has impacted them personally and has even helped save a life. This is such a unique activity for any Beach Patrol that during a worldwide trip by a leading rip current expert from Australia, he planned a stop in Ocean City, because according to his words, "No Beach Patrol in the world does more with education than Ocean City Maryland". We believe it makes a difference.

Surfing is usually restricted in Ocean City to the rotating surfing beaches, which are approximately one block wide and move two blocks south each day. However, surfers and experienced body boarders with swim fins were allowed in the ocean on that day because of the extreme conditions and the equipment used for these sports gives flotation and the people who usually have this type of equipment are far more experienced. The extra flotation makes it safer for these individuals to enjoy their sport while providing additional assistance should a beach patron disregard the warnings of the beach patrol and find themselves being pulled away from the beach in a rip current. Typically surfers and body boarders have the experience and skills to keep themselves out of danger compared to the typical tourist who buys a boogie board at a sundry shop and has little to no knowledge of the ocean. Once the ocean conditions returned to normal and we were able to relax the swimming restrictions then we needed to return to no surfing during the day, since it is dangerous to mix swimmers who were now allowed further out with surfers.

Note: At 7:15 p.m. on a day that had swimming restrictions, three children who were allowed to go swimming with parents watching from the beach were suddenly pulled into deeper water and were unable to return to safety. Fortunately an alert surfer in the area recognized the developing situation and was able to paddle into the deadly rip current and place two of the struggling children on his board and assisted the third out of the rip current and eventually made their way back to the safety of the shore. Parents, please do not let your children go swimming in the ocean when guards are not on duty.

SRT of the Week: Crew Chief Dan Pogonowski

The lifeguard's of the Ocean City Beach Patrol are glad to answer any of your beach and water safety questions. Dan Pogonowski "Pogo" is has worked for the beach Patrol for 9 years and is a Crew Chief and an Academy Instructor where he coordinates the physical training component of Surf Rescue Academy. Pogo is a full-time career firefighter for Anne Arundel Fire Department and is committed to work all of his days off from that job as a Surf Rescue Technician with the Ocean City Beach Patrol. Pogo credits his experiences with the Patrol as inspiring and motivating him to pursue a career in public safety. When he isn't working 7days a week between his two careers, Pogo enjoys a very physical outdoor lifestyle which includes swimming, running, stand up paddling, skiing, hiking and playing in the employee softball league.



Attaguards

From: spad321
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 6:53 PM
To: Butch Arbin

I would like to thank Liz Vanderculte for being so compassionate and caring. My mother has stage 4 cancer and wanted to go to the beach. We arrived at the beach at 445 pm and without hesitation Liz made arrangements to get my mom on the beach for 40 min. She was so kind and helpful. So thanks to her, my mom got to sit on the beach in her wheelchair and smell the ocean. My mom lives on 32nd street and when was well worked hard with her store on 32nd street but when she got sick she wanted to just sit on the beach and thanks to Liz we were able to do that. Thank you, Dawn Spadin

From: Susan O.
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2015 4:20 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: Special Thanks (Sunday, 9/6/15)

Dear OCBP Officers,

Greetings to you.

I am someone who grew up in OCMD. My mom and dad were the owners of that 'ole house that years ago use to stand at 201 South Phila. Ave, where the current police and OCBP parking lot now resides. This is to say that although I no longer spend my entire summer months in OCMD, all my life I grew up appreciating the hard work of the OCBP and still do today, as I approach my 70's.

On our trips to the beach we would be under the care of the amazing Crew #1 Surf Rescue Techs, with their extraordinary beach-safety talents, most of whom we had the privilege of meeting. Yesterday, was our last "day trip" to the marvelous Ocean City beach for the summer season, as on all of our "days off" OCMD is our destination. It was more crowded than I ever remember it being on the Sunday before Labor Day. We were so impressed by the extended lifeguard coverage after 5:30pm that we wanted to make sure we sent this communication your way.

Thank you to all those surf rescue technicians, especially Claudine and Dakota, who diligently patrolled the surf from the inlet area up past where we were sitting at North Division Street until sometime after 7:00pm. Around 5:45-6:00pm, as I sat reading my book in my beach chair, folks around me began standing up and looking towards the water. As I redirected my attention, I too stood up and noticed there was someone out in the water seemingly struggling to get to shore. One man began to shout, "Lifeguard, lifeguard!" Several guys ran out into the surf and swam out to help him. The struggler was safely assisted out of the water. At the same time the guards on what we call their "beach-mobile" (see below) showed up and were able to intervene in making sure he was OK and not in need of any further assistance. They were truly in the right place at the right time!

We remain proud of our OCBP lifeguards and look forward to next year's crew.

With appreciation -- Susan (Kestler) Owens

